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Pottstown Mercury

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Stalin Sinks Into Coma, Condition Called Grave

MOSCOW, Thursday, March 5 (AP) — Premier Josef Stalin lay in a deep coma today. A new medical bulletin—the second to be issued since the Russian leader was stricken Sunday night with a brain hemorrhage—said his condition "continues serious."

The bulletin, the first report on Stalin's health since the initial announcement of his illness yesterday morning said his breathing had improved somewhat yesterday after the use of oxygen and medicinal drugs, but later in the day "grave breathing disturbances recommenced."

The report covered Stalin's condition up to 2 a. m. today, Moscow time (6 p. m. Pottstown time Wednesday). It was broadcast to the people of the Soviet Union first at 6:30 a. m. Moscow time Thursday (10:30 p. m. Pottstown time Wednesday).

The bulletin said Stalin's heart action and blood circulation remained greatly impaired, and that in addition to the hemorrhage in his left brain sector, the trunk section of his brain was affected, accompanied by "disturbances of the most important functions of breathing and blood circulation."

"Towards the end of March 4, the state of health of Josef V. Stalin continues grave," the bulletin said. The patient is in a state of deep unconsciousness. Nervous regulation of breathing as well as cardiac activity continue to remain greatly impaired."

The bulletin mentioned some of the measures being taken in the treatment of the Russian chief, including oxygen, stimulants, and penicillin.

Russia's millions clustered around their radios to hear the latest bulletin. For 22 hours — since the first announcement of their leader's illness — they had waited sorrowfully and patiently for further news.

The Council of Ministers (cabinet) of the USSR and the Communist party's Central committee announced that they were "guiding" the party and country and expressed confidence that the 200 million Soviet people, "in these difficult days," would rally round.

There has not yet been any indication here as to how leadership of the government or party will be affected by the fact that Stalin is incapacitated.

* * *

THERE HAS been no word from the Kremlin about Stalin's condition since the first bulletin, which covered the situation up to 2 a. m. today. Further bulletins have been promised, but there is no hint as to when they will come.

(There was a growing feeling in the West that Stalin already has succumbed and that announcement of his illness was a means of preparing the minds of the Russian people for news of his death).

Radio stations repeated throughout the day the original bulletin—which said the Prime

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Complete Coverage

Mercury readers are given complete coverage in stories and pictures on the situation in the USSR brought about by the critical illness of Premier Josef V. Stalin. In addition to these stories on Page 1, you'll find a full page of photographs and a biographical sketch of the Soviet leader on Page 21, and news about a possible successor on Page 17.

Limerick School Employes Granted Increased Benefits

Limerick township school board dedicated at its meeting last night to grant new benefits to both its professional and non-professional employes.

Teachers will be given one day off with pay each month to visit schools in surrounding districts, it was announced.

The board also adopted the same sick leave policy for non-professional employes as has been in effect for professional workers.

These include five days sick leave with full pay each year, as well as three days off with pay on the death of a member of the employe's immediate family and one day off with pay when a near relative dies.

* * *

THE BOARD will continue the same policy for sixth grade pupils that it has followed in the past, it was decided last night.

Under this policy the pupils may

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THE WEATHER

For Eastern Pennsylvania: Today, mostly fair with a high between 40 and 46. Tomorrow, increasing cloudiness with little change in temperature.

56 High — **Mercury Antics** — **36** Low

TEMPERATURE EXTREMES

Local temperatures yesterday and early this morning were:

4 a. m.	46	4 p. m.	56
5 a. m.	47	5 p. m.	54
6 a. m.	48	6 p. m.	52
7 a. m.	48	7 p. m.	50
8 a. m.	48	8 p. m.	48
9 a. m.	48	9 p. m.	47
10 a. m.	49	10 p. m.	43
11 a. m.	50	11 p. m.	41
12 m.	51	12 p. m.	39
1 p. m.	52	1 a. m.	38
2 p. m.	53	2 a. m.	37
3 p. m.	55	3 a. m.	36

Pottstonians in USSR Had Glimpse of Stalin

Josef Stalin may be a man of mystery throughout the world but to at least three Pottstonians, he is a person whom they saw in person at close range.

They agreed yesterday that Stalin's death probably would be more of a help than a hindrance to the achievement of American aims in world affairs.

Travelers who have actually seen the enigmatic Soviet dictator are Samuel Konikoff, 519 King King street, and Fred T. Cadmus Jr., who was living in Pottstown when he returned from a trip to Russia.

Cadmus is the son of Mrs. F. T. Cadmus, widow of the former manager of the McClintic-Marshall steel works here. He now heads the Alexandria, Va., Iron works. His brothers include Justice of the Peace Richard H. Cadmus, of the Seventh ward.

Both the 67-year-old Konikoff and the 61-year-old Cadmus saw Stalin while in Moscow in preparation for industrial work.

Konikoff, a native of Russia who came to this country in 1904, saw Stalin on his last trip to Russia, in 1938, when he and other American industrial workers went there to build a huge tractor plant on the edge of Siberia.

* * *

FOR THE PARADE celebrating the 1917 Bolshevik revolution in Russia, foreign dignitaries and technicians were allowed to stand on a small platform built specially for them, Konikoff recalled.

On the huge reviewing stand, he continued, "Stalin and all the so-called dignitaries were there." Among the dignitaries whom he

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* * *

Businessman Feels Leader Is Ready to Take Stalin's Place

"When Lenin died everybody got excited and wondered who would or could take his place. Then Stalin came along.

"Now the same questions are being asked about Stalin's successor. There'll be somebody ready."

That's the way a Pottstown area man viewed the impending death of Russia's leader.

George W. Griffiths, Shenkel road, Douglassville, is one of at least three men in the area who saw Stalin in person from close range.

"It was in 1933," Griffith, who owns the Southwark Manufacturing company in Camden, N. J., said last night.

"I was in Russia on a ten-day business trip and was standing in Red Square right near Lenin's tomb. Stalin walked by surrounded by men about a hundred feet away, I'd say, and walked into the building where Lenin's body is exposed."

* * *

GRIFFITH WANTED to follow

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Here's how F. T. Cadmus, member of a well-known Pottstown family, looked on the day he returned to Pottstown from a trip to Russia during which he saw Josef Stalin during a May Day parade.

Samuel Konikoff, 519 King street, recalls seeing Premier Stalin in Moscow. Konikoff was in the USSR capital in 1938, while he was working on a Russian tractor plant.

Junior High Pupils Hear Career Talks

More than 800 Pottstown Junior High school pupils received first-hand information yesterday that may help them decide what vocation to follow after they graduate from High school.

The event was the annual Junior High school Career Conference in which adult representatives from 34 varied fields gave pupils insight into the phases of their work.

The conferences started at 1 p. m. and wound up at 3 p. m. Each pupil took in half-hour talks and discussions on the two fields of his preference.

Speaking were Russel King, accounting; auto mechanic, John Jacobs; Rita Carson, beautician and manicurist; Gurney Biehl, bookkeeper and cashier; John Meade, brick and stone mason; George Haas, bus and truck driver; Allen Hutt, Sanders and Thomas, carpenter.

* * *

ALSO, RALPH MAACK, chemist and metallurgist; Walter Heise, draftsman; Wilbur Reinhart, dressmaker and seamstress; John Snyder, electrician; Harold Schupsky, mechanical engineer.

Also, Miller C. Long, farming; H. Bert Shaw, service station operator; insurance agent, Charles Knisley; L. Stanley Mauger, law; the Rev. Edgar S. Horn, minister; Paul Karson, musician; Chief Dangers, Navy and Marines; Joseph Sobkowiak, pharmacist; Mrs. Orpha Miller, nursing.

Also, William Shaner, photog-

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Miss Bassett Reported In "Improved" Condition

Elizabeth Bassett, 88, lone living charter member of Pottstown chapter, King's Daughters society, was reported in a "slightly improved" condition at Pottstown hospital last night.

Miss Bassett was admitted to the hospital Sunday after she suffered an attack of grippe.

She celebrated her 88th birthday anniversary this past Valentine's Day.

Family and Friends Say Goodbye

—Mercury Staff Photo

They carried Bobby Walters to his final resting place in a little white casket under gray March skies yesterday. Friends and relatives gathered around the casket (upper photo) in a Souderton funeral home. The Rev. Ellis Graber, pastor of New Zion's Mennonite church, Souderton, stood (hands clasped) at the head of the casket. Robert Walters Sr., father of the Green Lane RD 1 polio and cancer victim, (dark templed glasses) looked at the casket while his wife cried in a white handkerchief. Bobby's brother, Raymond Lee, stood between his parents during the ceremony. Four young boys (lower photo) who knew Bobby when he was well and happy, carry the white casket to St. Paul's Lutheran cemetery, Telford.

Bobby Walters Buried; Coffin Carried By Neighboring Boys Who Knew Him

They buried Bobby Walter yesterday.

Under gray clouds, through the wind and rain the 4-year-old Green Lane RD 1 polio and cancer victim was carried to a grave in St. Paul's Lutheran cemetery, Telford, by four young boys.

The little boy who died in Sacred Heart hospital, Norristown, this past Saturday after a prolonged battle against the twin killers was compared yesterday to the little boy in the Bible whose five barley loaves and two fishes were used by Christ to feed the thousands.

The Rev. Ellis Graber, pastor of New Zion's Mennonite church, Souderton, compared the parable of the fishes and loaves to the life of Bobby Walters.

* * *

THE NEW ZION'S PASTOR told 50 relatives and friends gathered in the 228 North Main street Souderton funeral home, both the boy in the Biblical parable and Bobby gave "all they had" in life.

"In both instances," he continued, "mankind profited by their contributions."

After the service the mourners trailed off in a caravan of cars to the muddy cemetery.

They cried around the grave in the rain and winced in the raw March wind which drilled the rain into their faces.

The Rev. Graber presided at the brief service before the little white casket was lowered into the grave.

* * *

THE TEEN-AGED boys who carried the casket — Grier Russell Thomson, Sellersville RD 1; Melvin Heebner, Telford; Donald Detweiler, Sellersville, and Donald Brunner, Sellersville RD 1 — knew Bobby when he was happy and well.

Death came to Bobby Saturday, just one year after he fell and bruised his right hip while playing at his home.

He was admitted to Grand View hospital, Sellersville, this past April 6. After an operation and 52 days of suffering, physicians determined Bobby had cancer.

Then, on July 27, polio invaded his weakened body. From then until he died he battled against the two diseases.

This past September Mercury readers rallied behind the little boy after they read about his grim fight and his faint chances of survival.

They contributed to the Bobby Walters fund which swelled to nearly $7000—a fund which paid hospital and medical expenses and yesterday paid for funeral costs.

* * *

THE READERS were sustained by the way the little boy faced his inevitable plight. He baffled even

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ON THE MAIN DRAG

SYLVIA DORI
—musing over Quaker meetings

BILL DEEGAN
—calling a little late

DAN PETTIGREW
—enjoying refreshments

DONALD COCHRAN
—greeting a friend

ANTHONY SMITH
—examining a comb

ROBERT MAUGER
—finding the weather chilly

JACK C. ECKSTROM
—calling his dog

REV. DR. LUTHER A. KROUSE
—making hospital visits

MIKE OSKARA
—talking baseball

ROSE STRANG
—calling New York

7 Men and Women Post $300 Bail For Court on Charges of Gambling

Seven Pottstown area men and women were held for court on $300 bond each yesterday on charges of setting up gambling devices.

The hearing for one of the biggest crackdowns on gambling in Montgomery county in recent years was held before Schwenksville Justice of the Peace Walter Jarman.

Bail for six of the defendants was put up by Rufus R. Erb, 61, Frederick, himself out on bail following his arrest by Jeffersonville State police after 17 slot machines and 200 punchboards were allegedly found in a barn behind his home.

The seventh defendant, Louis P. Young, 1343 South street, proprietor of a garage at 1520 High street, put up his own bail, Jarman said.

Young was the only one of the seven who pleaded guilty. The other six pleaded not guilty.

* * *

BESIDES YOUNG, charged were George Adams, Gilbertsville RD 1; Harry Becker, Pottstown RD 4; Elsie Hetrick, Hoppenville, Pennsburg RD; Ella Reiss, 339 Seminary avenue, Pennsburg; Philip Slonaker, Red Hill and Benjamin F. Saylor, Zieglerville.

The seven defendants were charged by State police with setting up penny gambling machines.

The machines, in which a customer inserts a penny, pays off in packages of cigarettes, police claimed.

Present from the Jeffersonville sub-station were Sgt. Thomas V. Devlin and Cpl. Donald C. Beacraft, who led the investigation which resulted in the arrests.

One of the defendants, George Adams, also had a 25-cent punchboard, police asserted.

Beacraft testified that he found the machines in each of the establishments named, although they were not being operated at the time.

He also testified that he inserted 19 pennies in one of the machines, was assured that he would

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Electrical Storm Brings Heavy Rains, Then Warm Weather

Pottstown experienced its first thunder and lightning storm of the season yesterday but most residents probably slept right through it.

The first ominous rumbles started shortly after 3 a. m. and by 3:40 a. m. the flashes and booms were filling the sky in real August fashion.

The rain came down violently until nearly 6 o'clock when it began letting up. From then through the remainder of the of the day the skies remained overcast and threatened shoppers and workers with intermittent showers.

Pottstown took on its usual rainy weather appearance—ponds formed at several intersections. Charlotte street sidewalks became shooting galleries for unthinking motorists, with pedestrians as the targets, and roads became creek-beds as catch basins flooded.

* * *

THERE WAS one bright side to the damp picture, however. It could have been snow!

And if it had, the one-and-a-quarter inches of rain that fell would have amounted to more than 12½ inches of the white stuff.

The weatherman estimates that one inch of rain is equivalent to 10 inches of snow.

The rain brought warm weather with it. Through the early morning hours the mer-

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YOUTH'S SKULL FRACTURED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

Hospital Reports Driver In Serious Condition After Crash

VEHICLE SWERVED WILDLY, RAN INTO SHOW WINDOWS

A 22-year old, delirious youth was fighting for his life in Memorial hospital early this morning after the car he was operating swerved across West High street late last night, shattered three panes of show-window glass and rolled over, tossing the victim to the pavement.

Freeman Stone, 22, foster son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Goettman, 1121 Queen street, was reported in serious condition by hospital authorities.

Besides multiple cuts and bruises about the head and body, he was suffering from a skull fracture.

Authorities said three doctors had done everything they could for him by 1 a. m. They had to wait until he regained strength before doing anything further.

One police officer said a piece the size of an orange had been gouged out of his scalp.

* * *

THE ACCIDENT occurred at 11:05 p. m. on West High street. The Stone car was traveling east on Route 422 at what an eye-witness described as "a high rate of speed."

"Suddenly, right in front of me," said truck driver Mario Diclerico, Philadelphia, "the car shot right across the street, rammed into the show windows of a new car agency, and bounced off again. When it bounced the guy was thrown from the car."

The car rolled over several times after hitting the building and shattering the huge panes of glass. It landed on its roof headed west.

Stone was thrown clear and left lying on the pavement. But when he was thrown clear he must have struck his head against the jagged pieces of glass. That's when the chunk was gouged out of his scalp, police thought.

He was rushed to Memorial hospital.

* * *

IT WAS probably fortunate that the body was thrown clear because the car—a new, smaller model—

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Burned-Out Family Receives More Aid

Sympathizers of the Royersford RD 1 family burned out of their home this past week are increasing.

Yesterday an anonymous sympathizer contributed $10 and the Major Hollow Home Economics club donated $5 to the Philip Sweetland family, Royersford RD 1.

The family of six—including four children from 3 to 11 years of age—were left without a home this past Friday afternoon when fire gutted their home.

Beginning the campaign for the afflicted family was Norman P. Turner, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben March, South Fourth avenue, Royersford RD 1.

* * *

THE MARCH family has provided a temporary home for the Sweetlands and is continuing the

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Hearing Brings Glum Looks

—Mercury Staff Photo

Pottstown area men and women including defendants listen while State police tell Schwenksville Justice of the Peace Walter Jarman how they found gambling machines in establishments owned by the glum defendants. The hearings were held yesterday at 11 a. m. and all seven defendants were held for appearance in court under $300 bail. All seven posted the necessary bond. The crackdown was one of the biggest in the area in several years. Jeffersonville State police who led the investigation were Sgt. Thomas V. Devlin and Corp. Donald C. Beacraft.

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